House. His reasoning does not carry us an inch further than the proceedings. The defects as the Hon'ble President pointed out is with regard to communities like the Brahmins the Nairs and a section of the Christians. Of course if you make a rule of the kind that I recommend there will be some difficulties for people below the age of 25. All the same some transitory provision may be made. I am in full agreement with the Hon'ble Member for Pallipuram when he expounded the theory that questions relating to appointments should not as a rule be raised in this House. The only difference now is that his theory has not touched in any way the arguments advanced by me for the resolution. The resolution only wants to give some direction to the Staff Selection Board as to the way in which they should select candidates. It does not create any communal disharmony. These phrases used by my Hon'ble friend are not applicable to the resolution. I have placed the facts before the House. I pray that this may not be the last word on the matter. I have confidence in the sense of justice of the Government and hope that it will not, by one stroke of the pen, go against the spirit of the resolution.

**Mr. President.**—Even under the old practice the date of application has nothing to do. The application should be in the standard form. It does not touch their rights at all.

**Mr. A. Narayana Menon** *(Vyttila).*—In the past, when a candidate had applied before the age of 25 and when the Heads of Departments appointed them they used to recommend them for exemption and they used to get exemption as a matter of course. But that will not be available now for a section of the applicants if these instructions are followed. It is only to point out this difficulty that I have tabled this motion. I think the Government will go again into the matter and change the proceedings. I beg leave of the House to withdraw the Resolution.

*Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.*

## 3. Development of Public Libraries in the State.

**Mr. A. V. Moothedan** *(Chalakkudi).*—"*This Council recommends to Government that for the next five years the policy of granting increased amounts for Collegiate education should be stopped and instead more and more libraries should be started and developed.*"

So far as I am concerned, I think, it is a very important Resolution and requires very serious consideration. Our Maharajah's College has developed very much. Every year we are

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spending about one-and-half lakhs of rupees. I examined the Administration Report for the last three or four years. There is an increase of ten to fifteen thousand rupees every year for Collegiate education. But, for the library movement nearly Rs. 3000 is spent. There are nine public libraries for which we spend nearly Rs. 2000 and there are 9 village libraries for which we spend Rs. 900. When we spend 17 lakhs of rupees for education we spend only Rs. 3000 for libraries. It should never be forgotten that a library is a part of education. But regarding the usefulness of the library there is no dispute. Government have accepted the principle that libraries should be started whenever possible but they do not give effect to that principle. The other day I was very glad to read a speech of Vallathol "വായനശാലയില്ലാത്ത ഒരു വില്ലേജ്, ആത്മാവില്ലാത്ത ഒരു ശരീരം പോലെയാകുന്നു." i. e. a village without a library is something like a man without a soul. We impart education in the schools and afterwards we allow the pupils to waste their learning in the desert air. We do not give them an opportunity to continue the habit of learning, even after leaving the school. For this purpose Public Library is highly necessary. But our Government do not pay any great attention to the development of libraries. For instance, we have got here at Ernakulam a public Library. If you go there, one evening, you will find on the table "The Hindu" for two weeks, "The Madras Mail" for two weeks, "The Gomathi" for two weeks and "The Malayalarajiam" for two weeks—all lying together in a heap. It is impossible to pick up a particular issue of any paper. I do not blame the authorities of this Public Library for this state of affairs. How can they manage with Rs. 600 per annum. But, for the information of the house, I may say that the Travancore Government pay great attention to the development of libraries. The Trivandrum Public Library is a model library and it is one of the two things I admire in Travancore.

Now coming to the College again, what do we gain after all? We can spend no more funds for the purpose. Considering our position we are spending for the College, more than what we could. Take the St. Thomas College. It is almost self-supporting. Last year their income was Rs. 51,000. They have only spent Rs. 200 more than that. But here, we find, more than a lakh of rupees Government are advancing every year for the maintenance of the College. I think, therefore, we must call a halt to the financing of the College on an increasing scale every year. By that we are only adding to educated

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unemployment. With that money let us have more and more libraries..

**Mr. George Parakkal** *(Narakkal).*—I beg to support the resolution and in doing so I cannot hold one with my friend regarding his first statement with regard to the College. As regards his prayer to increase the grant for the library movement I think it is a matter which should be considered.

**Rao Sahib I. N. Menon** *(Director of Public Instruction).*—Mr. President, Sir, Government have not the slightest hesitation in agreeing with the sentiments expressed by the Hon'ble Member and contained in the resolution that as far as possible and consistent with the interests of higher education expenditure in the College should be limited and more sums should be utilised for spreading the Library movement. I think the Hon'ble Member who moved the resolution gave an exaggerated view when he said that we are spending thirty thousand rupees for the College Library and only 3 thousand rupees for the village libraries. That is because of the type of books that the public libraries buy. The cost of a journal in the Chemistry Section for instance comes to pounds, whereas the books in the public libraries cost only very little.

**Dr. A. R. Menon** *(Pallippuram).*—Sir, the resolution is about College education and not the college library.

**Mr. A. V. Moothedan** *(Chalakkudi).*—I said that there were only 18 libraries and that for the 9 public libraries you spend 2000 rupees and for the 9 village libraries you spend 900 rupees.

**Rao Sahib I. N. Menon** *(Director of Public Instruction.*—Government have realised the colossal magnitude of expenditure on the College, but just as one good deed necessitates another they have gone from one precedent to another. Time was when we could have curtailed the expenditure on the college. It is not now possible to stint expenditure beyond a certain limit. I do not believe the Hon'ble Member was very earnest in saying that. We are here to see what we can do with the limited resources. The College is not really a going concern. And I do not think it is possible for a first grade college to be a self-supporting one if it is going to be self-respecting. Further for the last two years special sums of money have been set apart for financing the rural libraries.

**Mr. A. V. Moothedan** *(Chalakudi).*—In the result we have got 9 libraries.

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**Rao Sahib I. N. Menon** *(Director of Public Instruction).*—A few more will be started this year.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കുട്ടി.— കൊല്ലത്തിൽ എത്ര റൂറൽലൈബ്രറീസ് വർദ്ധിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്?

റാവുസാഹിബ് ഐ. എൻ. മേനോൻ.— അതു് വയസ്സു വർദ്ധിക്കുന്നതുപോലെ തിട്ടമായി പറയുവാൻ സാധിക്കുകയില്ല.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കുട്ടി.— ഫ്രഥ-ൽ എത്ര വർദ്ധിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്?

റാവുസാഹിബ് ഐ. എൻ. മേനോൻ.— അഞ്ചു്.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കുട്ടി.— ഫ്രഥ-ൽ ഉണ്ടോ?

റാവുസാഹിബ് ഐ. എൻ. മേനോൻ.— അഞ്ചെണ്ണമുണ്ട്. ഈ തോതുവച്ചു് വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുവാനെ നിവൃത്തിയുള്ളൂ.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കുട്ടി.— അഞ്ചുവീതം എന്നുള്ളതു് പത്തുവീതമാക്കിക്കൂടെ? അല്ലെങ്കിൽ കൊച്ചീരാജ്യംമുഴുവൻ ലൈബ്രറീസു വ്യാപിക്കുവാൻ അറുപതുകൊല്ലം വേണ്ടിവരും.

**Rao Sahib I. N. Menon** *(Director of Public Instruction).*—My submission, therefore is that every effort will be made to implement the purport of the resolution before the House. It is not possible to give any statistical or mathematical assurance either in curtailing the expenditure on the college or in regard to increasing the expenditure for the rural libraries. Every effort will be made to release funds for the progress of the library movement.

* **Dr. A. R. Menon** *(Pallippuram).*—Sir, I am very anxious when I am speaking about the Ernakulam College as it is likely that I may be thought to be a vehement opponent of that institution. Nothing is farther from my mind, to consider this question from that aspect at all. Certainly I took a very keen interest about the location of the College here on the ground that in course of time the authorities will be compelled to remove the college. Nobody knows what is in the womb of time. At the same time I am not an opponent of higher education. I perfectly sympathise with the Government in their endeavour to make this a model college in this part of the world. We must cut our coat according to the cloth. I honestly think that the expenditure of this college is increasing by leaps and bounds and by a careful scrutiny and exercise of a little economy the expenditure can be limited without in any way

* Speech not corrected by the Hon'ble Member.

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lowering the efficiency of this institution. (Hear hear). It is conceivable that when compared with the Christian College and other colleges the amount that we are spending for this college is very meagre, but we must consider our resources. The mere fact that our revenue is increasing year by year does not entitle you to increase expenditure if you can possibly manage without additional expenditure. After a careful consideration one is led to think that the College is incurring more expenditure than it ought to have. A time has come to pull down the expenditure for this institution because if the Bill which will be introduced before the Council day after tomorrow is passed by the Council you will have to release more funds. The Select Committee has submitted a unanimous report including Government and non-official Members and I believe there is every chance of that Bill being accepted by Government which will necessitate incurring of enormous expenditure and it will be necessary to reduce expenditure wherever possible. Beyond that I have not anything to say about the college.

About the other question I think it is more important than the ordinary primary classes. The education imparted through the primary schools is very meagre and unless it is supported by a library and unless you take knowledge to the very doors of the rural people, the money you spend on primary education is wasted. Therefore it is a complementary of the primary education. Primary education and village libraries together constitute a system of rural education which in course of time will enhance the moral and material tone of our rural population. We must also consider in spending money that wherever possible a greater number of people is benefitted. Our efforts should be directed to that direction first. I think the time has come to urge upon the Government the necessity of introducing these rural libraries on a wider scale copying out the system existing in some other native States like Baroda. I would even suggest the introduction of the Travelling library system whereby you can take books to the doors of the rural population. You can engage some lorries like the one in the Public Health Department and distribute the books periodically and occasionally. In some such measure you ought to improve this primary education instead of simply leaving the boys to themselves. You must inculcate this habit of reading books in the little children. With these words I beg to support the resolution brought forward by my friend here.

**Rao Sahib I. N. Menon** *(Director of Public Instruction)*.—Sir, the resolution says that any additional expenditure should

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be stopped. But there are the increments to salaries, etc. These are things which cannot be stopped. But Government accept the principle of the resolution.

*Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.*

## 4. Sense of the Council to be taken in making provision for original works.

**Mr. T. S. Balarama Ayyar** *(Trichur North)*—*"This Council recommends to Government that no original work for which provision has been made in the Budget shall, as far as possible, be undertaken before getting the approval of the House by means of a token motion".*

All items of expenditure do come to the notice of this House. They come in the Budget estimates, they come as demands for supplementary grants, they come in the statements made under Section 16 (9) of the Regulation. The voice of this House is heard on the items of expenditure in the Budget as well as on the demands made as supplementary grants. But the Council gets absolutely no opportunity to have their voice heard on items included in the statements submitted under Section 16 (9). I no doubt realise that Government will have to incur expenditure on emergent cases. But I do think some difference will have to be made between emergency and urgency. The two may of course be synonymous, in that in both the element of time is present. But emergent I believe means much more than urgent. There is an element of unforseenness in the case of emergency and I also think that cases where omission to act is frought with serious consequences must come under emergency. Then again certain works will have to be taken up without loss of time. There are instances like that. For instance suppose it is brought to the notice of Government that putting up an anicut on a particular point in a stream will bring in more area under double crop and thereby increase the public income as well as the revenue of the Government. But what is the use of putting up an anicut when there is no water in the stream? For the purpose of producing good results it must be done in time without any delay. Such cases are also to be regarded as emergent. My fear is that in the statements that are now submitted under Section 16 (9) cases which are both emergent and urgent are included. I do admit that it will be very difficult to draw a clear line of demarcation where urgency ends and emergency begins. But all cases of expenditure which come to the notice of Government before a sitting

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